we continue with our culture; and we maintain our individuality. That is because the Indian culture is a humanist culture. It is this humanism which is the greatness of the Indian culture. That is why, thousands of years back, the Vedas said, "Sarve jano sukhino bhavantu". Not the people of India or the people of that country or this country; the entire world should be happy, the entire people should be happy. We have forgotten this great Indian culture.

Madam, it is sufficient for me to say today that these centres would be self financing. And they will be getting the degress from this University. They will be centres of Indian culture. That is what I hope and would like them to be. Thank you, Madam. And I thank the House for the all-round support given by Members.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, the question is:

"That the Indira Gandhi National Open University (Amendment) Bill, 1997 be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI S. R. BOMMAI: Madam, I move:

'That the Bill be passed.'

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now, I would like to take the sense of the House on the items of business. One is the statement of the Minister. Mr. Arunachalam is sitting here for the last 1½ hours. Then there are the admitted Special Mentions of the day. Would you like to sit beyond 6 o'clock? Yes. Okay. Shall we take up the Minister's statement first? (*Interruptions*). There was some accident in the Madras Fertilizers Ltd. (*Interruptions*).

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश): मैडम्, अगर स्टेटमेंट लेंगे तो क्लेरिफिकेशंस नहीं हो पाएंगी । इसलिए स्पेशल मेंशन ले लीजिए ।

श्री अनन्तराय देवशंकर दवे (गुजरात): महोदया, एक बात और भी है जो सप्लीमेंट्री लिस्ट आफ बिजनेस है उसमें लिखा गया है कि

"To be taken up before the House rises for the day."

वह तो फिक्स हो गया है । तो स्पेशल मेंशन हो जाएं, उसके बाद ही यह होना है ।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे): मिनिस्टर का स्टेटमेंट तो पहले ले लें हम, उसमें बहुत देर नहीं लगेगी ।

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Accident in Madras Fertilizers Limited's substantial expansion project on 8th August, 1997

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICAL AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): Madam, an unfortunate accident occurred in the night of 8.8.97 during the final stage of commissioning of the Substantial Expansion and Modrenisation Project of Madras Fertilisers Limited at Manali near Chennai. At 9.13 P.M., one of the manhole covers in the Secondary Reformer-RG Boiler section blew out with a loud report. The noise started some contract workers who were engaged in insu- l tion nd oth r m ch ic l

workers sustained various injuries. Two of the injured later succumbed to their injuries. The injured, who have been hospitalised, are expected to be discharged shortly.

Within two minutes of the accident, corrective action was taken by the Control Room for ensuring a safe shut down of the plant. The extent of damage is not expected to be serious. An exact assessment will, however, be possible only after 2-3 days, when the equipment has cooled down.

Dr. G. B. Purohit, Adviser, Department of Fertilisers was deputed on 9.8.97 to make an on the spot assessment and assist the project authorities in organising the resumption of the commisisoning activities.

On 10.8.97, I myself proceeded to Chennai to see the vicitims of the accident and enquire after their welfare. Shri N. V. N. Somu, Minister of State of Defence, who represents the area Shri Sundaram, State Minister of Tamil Nadu Government and Shri Anil Kumar, Secretary (Fertilisers) also accompanied me. An ex-gratia assistance of Rs. 1 lakh each to the families of the deceased has been announced. Ex-gratia assistance of Rs. 10,000/- each is being given to 16 workers, who have suffered grievous injuries and Rs. 5,000/- each to 7 workers, who have sustained minor injuries.

I also visited the plant to confer with the management of Madras Fertilizers Limited and review the progress of the efforts being undertaken by the project authorities for regaining the momentum of the execution of the project. It is expected that the commissioning activities will soon be resumed.

The management of Madras Fertilizers Limited has constituted an enquiry committee to look into the cause of the accident and fix the responsibility for the failure of the equipment. An external expert has been included in the committee, which is expected to submit its findings within a fortnihgt.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Would you like to seek clarifications today?

श्री महेश्वर सिंह (हिमाचल प्रदेश) : मैडम, आज स्पेशन मैं ले लीजिए। स्टेटमेंट पर क्लेरिफिशस कल ले लेना।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) : आज स्पेशल मैंशन्स लेने हैं ?

Can we take up Special Mentions today?

SHRI MAHESHWAR SINGH: Yes, Madam.

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिंदे : (महाराष्ट्र) : मैडम, जितने आज होते हैं, उतने आज होने दीजिए।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) : सनातन बिसि जी, आपने कुछ बोलना है।

श्री सनातन बिसि : (उड़ीसा) : मैडम, नहीं।

उपसभाध्यक्ष (कुमारी सरोज खापर्डे) स्पेशल मैंशन्स आज लेकर मामला ही पूरे खत्म करने हैं क्या ?

Let us take up Special Mentions.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN): Madam, now you are tak-

finish them all or will you continue up to 6 o'clock?

PROF. RAM KAPSE (Maharashtra): Madam, we will finish all the Special Mentions.

SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATARAJAN: Madam, I am sorry. I just want to seek some clarification. Are there no clarifications on the Statement?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Clarifications on the statement made by Mr. Arunachalam will take place tomorrow. Now we are taking up admitted Special Mentions.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): Madam, after the Special Mention, do you propose to take up the other business or will it be taken up tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): I think the hon. Members are saying that we should take up the Special Mentions today and thereafter we should adjourn the House. We will take up the clarifications on the statement tomorrow.

SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM: Madam, what about the Bill? It will be taken up only tomorrow?

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): The Minister has also got the Export-Import Bank of India (Amendment) Bill, 1997, today.

PROF. RAM KAPSE: We will take it up tomorrow. Now we will take up the Special Mentions and nothing else. There are 11 Special Mentions.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE): Now we will take up Special Mentions Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde.

SPECIAL MENTIONS

Harassment of Indian Labourers Abroad and cheating by Indian Manpower Export Agencies

श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिंदे : (महाराष्ट्र) : उपसभाध्यक्ष महोदया, एक अत्यन्त महत्वपूर्ण मसले को उठाने के लिए आपने जो इजाजत दी है उसके लिए मैं आपका आभारी हूं। पिछले वर्ष दिसम्बर में संवैध रूप से कई भारतीयों को विदेश ले जाने के बहाने सागर में डुबा दिया गया था। इस घिनौनी हरकत की निन्दा दुनियाभर के मीडिया में की गई थी। भारतीय संसद में भी इस पर गहरी चिंता जताई गई थी। ऐसी घटनाओं की पुनरावृत्ति न हो इसके लिए कड़े कदम उठाने का संकल्प भी किया गया था। सरकार ने भरपूर आश्वासन दिए लेकिन फिर भी ऐसी घटनाओं का सिलसिला जारी रहा। इसी वर्ष मई में करीब 172 भारतीयों ने कुवैत के दूतावास में शरण ली। कुवैत स्थित दूतावास को प्राप्त शिकायत के मुताबिक इन लोगों को भारतीय मैनपावर एजेन्सियों ने यह आश्वासन दिया था कि कुवैत में उनको 90 दिनार या 300 डालर प्रतिमाह वेतन दिया जायेगा। लेकिन वहां काम करने के बाद उनको सिर्फ 60 दिनार वेतन दिया जाने लगा। इनमें बहुत सी महिलाएं थीं। वेतन के अलावा उन्होंने अन्य शिकायतें भी दूतावास में दर्ज करा दी थी। अंत में उनमें से बहुत सी महिलाएं स्वदेश वापस आईं। ऐसी भी कई भारतीय हैं जो वहां पहुंचकर बंधुआ मजदूरों की जिंदगी जीते हैं। ऐसी कई घटनाएं इससे पहले भी हो चुकी हैं और हो रही हैं। मेरे पास जो आंकड़े उपलब्ध हैं उनके मुताबिक 1993 में 81 लाख भारतीय नागरिक दुनिया के 156 देशों में नौकरियां या व्यवसाय कर रहे थे। इसके अलावा करीब एक करोड़ भारतीय मूल के लोग विदेशों में नागरिकता हासिल कर बस गये हैं। आज 1997 में विदेशी नागरिकता ग्रहण करने वाले भार-